


**United States Environmental Protection Agency
Region V
POLLUTION REPORT**

EPA Region 5 Records Ctr.

282140

Date: Thursday, October 18, 2007

From: Mike Ribordy, OSC

To: Linda Nachowicz, U.S. EPA
Bruce Everetts, Illinois EPA

David Chung, U.S. EPA

Subject: Initiation of Action
Prairieland Steel
Havana, IL
Latitude: 40.27858
Longitude: -90.06658

POLREP No.:	1	Site #:	A525
Reporting Period:	10/12/07-10/19/07	D.O. #:	
Start Date:	10/12/2007	Response Authority:	CERCLA
Mob Date:	10/12/2007	Response Type:	Time-Critical
Completion Date:		NPL Status:	Non NPL
CERCLIS ID #:		Incident Category:	Removal Action
RCRIS ID #:		Contract #	

Site Description

The Prairieland Steel Site (Site) is located at 550 Pear Street, Havana, Illinois, and is surrounded to the south, east, and west by residential areas. A review of Sandborn maps revealed that industrial processes have taken place on at least one parcel of the site since approximately 1887. Prairieland Steel obtained the property in 1959 and produced industrial strength wire by drawing raw material stock 304 and 316 stainless steel through dies to give the wire the desired shape and thickness. Electric motors were used to pull the wire through the redraw device, and lead dross was used as the lubricant. After 1990, the facility only cleaned industrial strength wire using trichloroethylene (TCE) in the final step as a degreaser.

The Site is currently composed of at least five separate parcels. Four of the parcels are under private ownership. The former rail right of way, which roughly forms the border of the site, is owned by the City of Havana.

In 2003, the IEPA collected additional groundwater and soil samples. Analytical results found tetrachloroethene at concentrations up to 71 mg/kg and lead contamination at up to 1,700 mg/kg. The 2003 investigation also revealed arsenic contamination in soil in the right-of-way surrounding the former Prairieland Steel property at concentrations up to 500 mg/kg.

In June 2004, a Pre-CERCLIS Screening Assessment was conducted by Illinois EPA. An X-

ray fluorescence (XRF) survey was conducted at the Site. The XRF survey revealed lead levels up to 67,000 parts per million (ppm) and elevated levels of arsenic primarily in the upper two feet of soil. Analytical results taken at this time revealed total lead at up to 45,000 ppm in a waste pile and a concentration of 360 mg/l pursuant to the Toxicity Characteristic Leaching Procedure (TCLP).

In July 2006, U.S. EPA conducted an assessment of the Site. Several soil samples were collected in the vicinity of the waste pile to determine the aerial extent of lead contamination. Soil samples collected from a depth of 0-6 inches on the waste pile found total lead levels at up to 210,000 mg/kg.

Current Activities

On October 11, 2007, the U.S. EPA Region 5 Emergency Response Branch started a time-critical removal action at the Prairieland Steel site. U.S. EPA and its contractors mobilized to the site to initiate the cleanup and removal activities. General site set-up activities were performed to prepare the site for work activity. Clearing and grubbing of the concrete pad and pile area was started.

On October 12, 2007, clearing and grubbing activities continued. Additional removal actions involve the excavation and stockpiling of lead contaminated soils. START used a field-based X-Ray Fluorescence Spectrum Analyzer (XRF) to screen the excavated areas to determine whether the industrial cleanup criteria of 800 parts-per-million (ppm) lead was met. Soil samples were taken at approximately 20% of the confirmation sampling locations and submitted to a lab for analysis. START also used the XRF to further delineate the extent of lead contamination at the site above the cleanup criteria.

October 13-14, 2007, no site work occurred.

From October 15, through 19, 2007, transportation and disposal of lead contaminated soil was conducted. Five trucks per day (approximately 110 tons) were loaded and the lead soils were transported to a hazardous waste landfill for treatment and disposal. Clearing and grubbing activities on the concrete pad continued in preparation of placing an asphalt cap over the contaminated pad. Backfill was placed in excavated areas where the cleanup objective was met.

On October 19, 2007, the U.S. EPA and its contractors demobed from the site.

Planned Removal Actions

Award subcontract and schedule work for asphalt cap. Work should be completed in early November.

Key Issues

On October 16, 2007, an area of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) was discovered at approximately 2 feet below ground surface while excavating lead contaminated soils. A soil sample was collected from this area, a piece of snow fence was placed on the bottom of the excavation as a demarcation barrier, and the area was backfilled. Analytical results found

high levels of tetrachloroethene at approximately 300 ppm. The Illinois EPA was provided the analytical results and plans on conducting additional assessment work in this area.

Estimated Costs *

	Budgeted	Total To Date	Remaining	% Remaining
Extramural Costs				
ERRS - Cleanup Contractor	\$200,000.00	\$80,562.09	\$119,437.91	59.72%
RST/START	\$7,500.00	\$5,500.00	\$2,000.00	26.67%
Intramural Costs				
Total Site Costs	\$207,500.00	\$86,062.09	\$121,437.91	58.52%

* The above accounting of expenditures is an estimate based on figures known to the OSC at the time this report was written. The OSC does not necessarily receive specific figures on final payments made to any contractor(s). Other financial data which the OSC must rely upon may not be entirely up-to-date. The cost accounting provided in this report does not necessarily represent an exact monetary figure which the government may include in any claim for cost recovery.

Disposition of Wastes

Waste Stream	Quantity	Manifest #	Disposal Facility
Lead Contaminated Soil (D008)	460 Tons		American Environmental Services, Inc. 1689 Sher-cal Road Calvert City, KY 42029

www.epaosc.org/prairielandsteel